

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 4, 8, 9, 14, 16, 20 and 21 are pending in this application. Claim 1 is currently amended. Claims 1, 2, 4, 8, 9, 14, 16, 20, and 21 remain for examination.

Claim Objections

Applicant acknowledges renumbering of misnumbered claim “22” to –21--.

Abstract

The Examiner reminded applicants’ of the proper language and format for an abstract of the disclosure. The Abstract as amended meets the requirements of proper language and format.

Drawings

The drawings were objected to as failing to clearly show the cavity being wider at the bottom than at the top. Figures 2, 3, 4, and 5 were stated to appear to not be able to coact together. This amendment presents replacement sheets with amendments to Figures 2, 3, and 5 which clearly show the cavity being wider at the bottom than at the top, and show the sides of the support platform and of the cavity as undercut. The Figures as amended are able to coact together. Basis in the specification for these amendments is at Figures 4 and 6 and at page 6, lines 22-24; page 6, lines 26-27; and page 7, lines 17-19.

The Examiner stated that Figure 4 did not look consistent with Figures 2 and 3 because Figure 4 shows the sides of the cavity being parallel. Applicants respectfully suggest that Figure 4 is a cross-sectional view taken from Figure 3 and as such has no depth and, cannot show the sides of the cavity being parallel.

Annotated sheets showing changes are attached as Appendix A, showing Figures 2, 3, and 4 and Appendix B, showing Figures 5 and 6.

Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested with withdraw the objections to the Drawings.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 112

The Examiner rejected claim 1 under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph as indefinite. The language of the recitation “with the front side of the platform “ was said to render the claim indefinite. This amendment amends claim 1. Claim 1 as amended is not indefinite and the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the rejection under 35 USC § 112:

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 103

Claims 1, 2, 4, 8, 9, 14, and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Pat. No. 6,637,707 (Gates et al. ‘707) in view of U.S. Pat. No. 4,019,298 (Johnson, VI ‘298) and U.S. Pat. No. 2,779,114 (Orthwine ‘114).

This rejection appears to be the same as the rejection over Gates et al. ‘707 in view of Orthwine ‘114 in the Office Action of 11/28/2005 with the further view of Johnson, VI ‘298. The amendment and remarks submitted on January 4, 2006 distinguish from Gates et al. ‘707 and Orthwine ‘114 and also apply here.

Johnson, VI ‘298 discloses a beam support system with a dual tapered dovetail in a joist which receives a dual tapered dovetail shaped tenon extending from a beam (Abstract). The dual tapered dovetail shaped tenon tapers in width from top to bottom (32 in Fig. 4) and also tapers in thickness from top to bottom (45 in Fig. 5).

Claim 1 is currently amended to add the limitation that the platform on the support platform be of uniform thickness. Basis in the specification is found at Fig. 5 and Fig. 8.

Accordingly, claim 1 and those claims depending on it are not unpatentable over Gates et al. ‘707 in view of Johnson, VI ‘298 and Orthwine ‘114 and the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the rejections.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 20 and 21 are allowed.

Response to Arguments

The Examiner indicated the previous response to the disclosures of Orthwine and Slavsky were rendered moot by the fact that the claims in question did not recite a "single" tab. Claim 1 is currently amended to add the restriction of a single tab. Basis in the specification for this amendment is at page 7, line 21.

Accordingly, claim 1 and those claims dependent on it are not unpatentable under Orthwind and Slavsky and the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw these rejections.

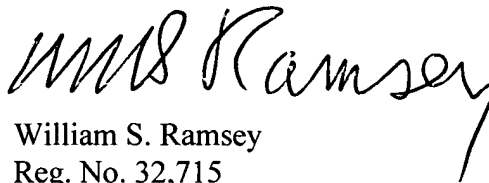
In view of the above, reconsideration and early allowance of the pending claims are earnestly solicited.

No fee is required for this amendment.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for this amendment, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 18-0158. In the event that an extension of time is required, or which may be required in addition to that requested in a petition for an extension of time, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to Deposit Account No. 18-0158.

A DUPLICATE COPY OF THIS SHEET IS ATTACHED.

Respectfully submitted,



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AMEND2

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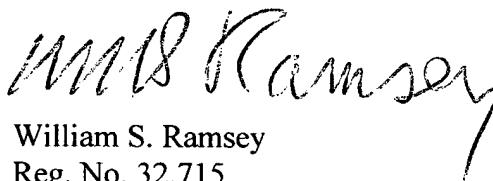
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AMEND2

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Two REPLACEMENT SHEETS to replace the sheets with Figs. 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 are attached.

Two ANNOTATED SHEETS SHOWING CHANGES are attached as Appendix A, showing Figs. 2, 3, and 4; and Appendix B, showing Figs. 5 and 6.

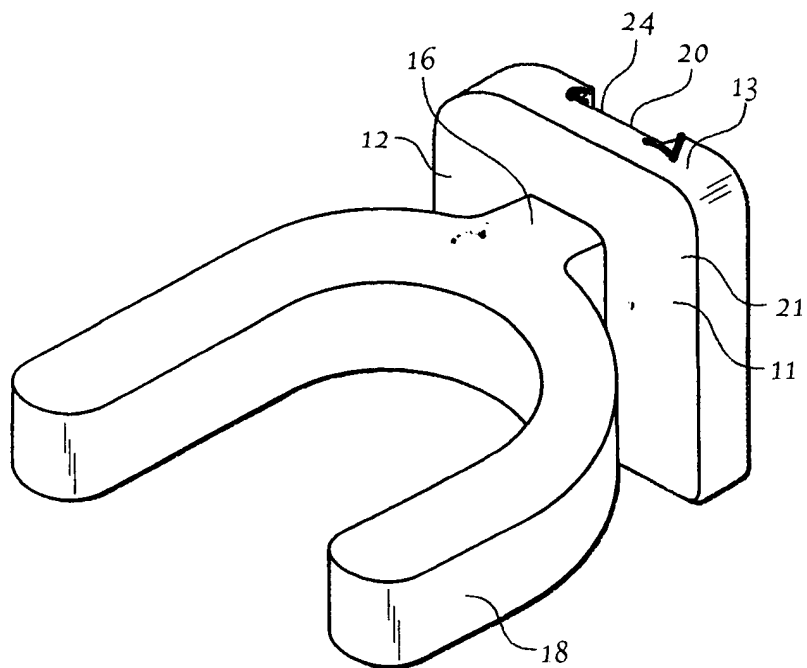


Fig. 2

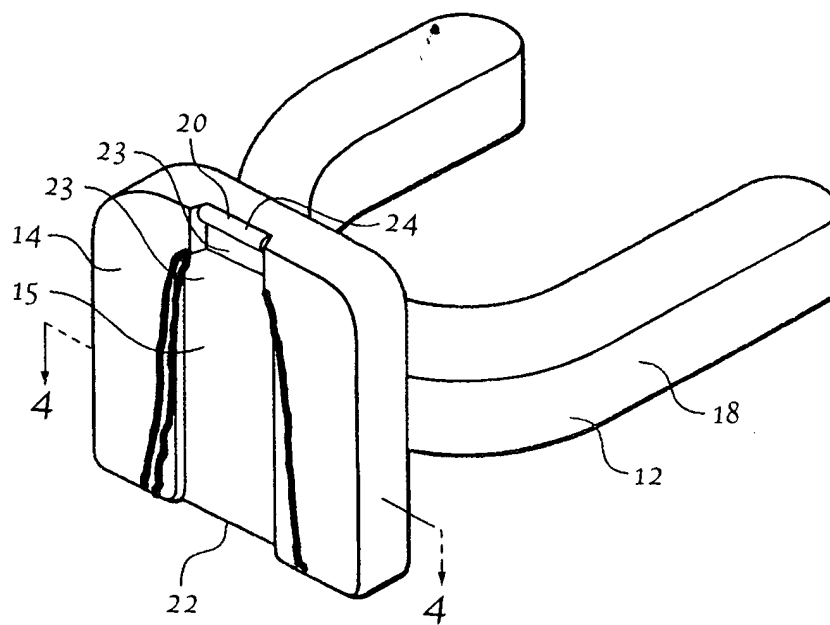


Fig. 3

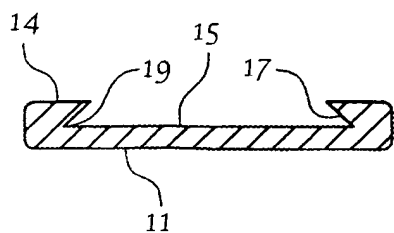


Fig. 4

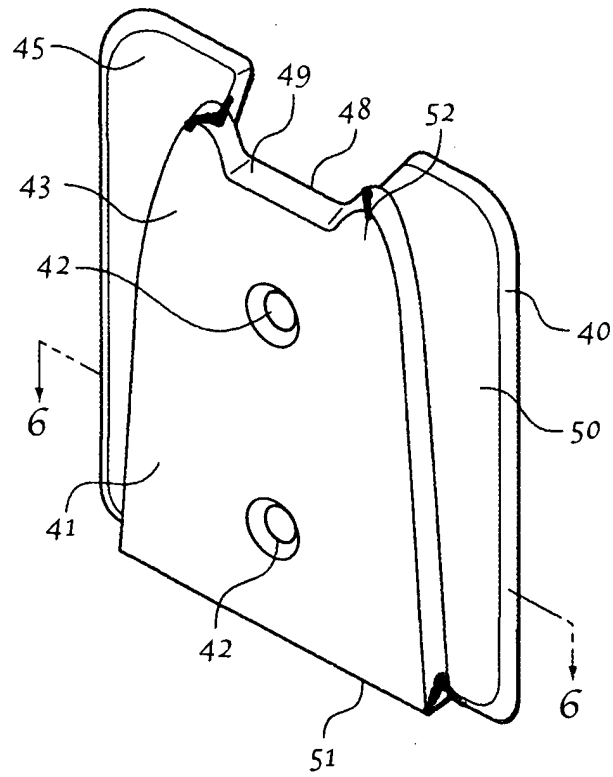


Fig. 5

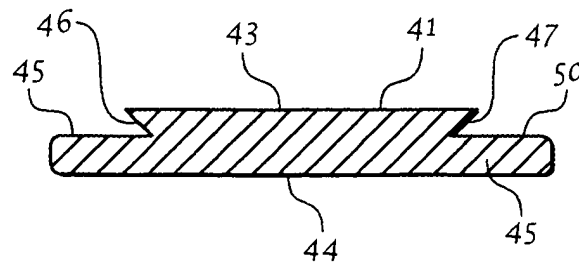


Fig. 6